

the embryo *Vorticella*, it is stated that its pulsations were less rapid than in the full-formed animalcule; a circumstance at variance with analogy; for, in the embryos of higher animals, the contractions of the cardiac vesicle, or punctum saliens, are more frequent than those of the circulating sac in the adult. Moreover, if such a perfect system of organs, presenting a cardiac and a respiratory sac, be observable in the *Vorticella*, it must surely elevate that genus considerably in the scale of animals, and place it far above the majority of the polygastric Infusoria. And, consequently, if such a complex organism can be shown in the *Vorticellæ*, we are not to attribute a like one to those other Infusoria with which that family is at present associated; for the Monads, the Amœbæ, &c., are surely but one remove from homogeneous organic matter.—J. T. A.]

BRITISH MUSEUM, ZOOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.—CONCHOLOGY.

It is suggested that the fields of the tablets on which shells are fastened should be stained with different colours corresponding to the following grand geographical divisions, which may be termed "generic:" 1. Europe; 2. Asia and its islands; 3. Africa; 4. Australia; 5. Polynesia; 6. North America; 7. South America.

Smaller specific geographical divisions might be indicated by a narrow border of a different colour to each tablet. When the locality may be unknown, the tablet may remain white until further information can be acquired. Such a plan would interfere in no wise with the arrangement of species according to their affinities, while it would facilitate the researches of the student, who could, at a glance, ascertain the country of a particular species, or direct his attention, in rapid succession, to all the denizens of the particular tract regarding which he is desirous of gaining information, merely by reference to an index-card showing the colours of the divisions and subdivisions. The specific subdivisions may be increased to any extent desirable by the use of double or treble borders of diverse colours.

The above is offered as an improvement on the system in use in some private entomological cabinets of distinguishing indigenous British species by a ticket of a conspicuous colour.—W. H. B.

February 24, 1849.

ENGLISH WILD BEASTS A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO.

"At Enfield, hardly out of the sight of smoke of the capital, was a region of five and twenty miles in circumference which contained only three houses and scarcely any inclosed fields. Deer as free as in an American forest wandered there by thousands. It is to be remarked, that wild animals of large size were then far more numerous than at present. The last wild boars, indeed, which had been preserved for the royal diversion, and had been allowed to ravage the cultivated land with their tusks, had been slaughtered by the exasperated rustics during the license of the civil war. The last wolf that has roamed our island had been slain in Scotland a short time before the close of the reign of Charles the Second. But many